

A word about using this guide and helpful tips for navigating community resources...

- This guide is broken down by section to help get you quickly to your specific need.
- Some state level programs like [MiBridges](#) have streamlined applications to assess your eligibility for benefits in many areas at once (e.g., food assistance, child care, state emergency relief, cash assistance and health care coverage).
- No guide can cover every resource in a community. If you belong to a particular faith community, civic organization, neighborhood association, or local city or township group, it never hurts to inquire about resources available. A safe way to ask if you want to remain anonymous could be, “What resources can I tell people your organization offers to those in need?” or “Where in this community can I refer people to for help with...?”. Some communities have mutual aid Facebook groups to share resources in which you can ask for recommendations.
- For a completely confidential way to get help, **call 2-1-1** for information and referral to community and social services, such as ESL classes, financial assistance programs, health clinics, or counselling services. **211** is free, confidential, multilingual and available 24 hours a day. You **do** not have to give your name or personal details to get information.
- Don't give up! There can be waiting periods for appointments, applications to fill out and education courses tied to some types of assistance. Others are more simple to access.
- If you are in urgent need, make sure to let people know, they may have other suggestions for quicker help or support. Always call 911 for emergencies.
- If someone does not have a resource you need in general, ask about referrals to other agencies or providers who may be able to help.
- We will update this guide every other year, so please let us know if you see information that is missing or incorrect.
- If you have questions or updates for the guide please contact hmakimaa@eatonresa.org